Presented by
Nayuta Nago
MIHANADA
PECTOLITE

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Extra 172 p

CHAPTER ONE

When I realized

THE LONG WINTER HAS COME TO AN END.

YOU CAN NOW FEEL SPRING'S WARM WIND GENTLY BRUSHING YOUR CHEEK...

Seeing it taken away from me,

made me feel horribly discouraged.

that being in *that spot* was what was natural for me...

I can't meet

your expectations.

NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE,

CLATTER

SENSEI, I'M HERE TO USE THE MICRO-WAVE...

OKAY, GO AHEAD~

Part

Part...

gets up

Sigh.

...

clunk

WHAM

click

clunk

BEEP

BEEP

Oh.

THERE'S SOMEONE RESTING RI-GHT NOW, SO PLEASE BE QUIET.

Oh damn

WOAH, SERIOUSLY?

I THINK THEY'RE STILL SLEEPING, SO YOU'RE FINE...

CREAK

...SENSEI,

I'M AWAKE.

step

clunk

clunk

I'M OKAY NOW, SO

I'LL RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM...

swish

Ah...

SORRY IF I WAS TOO LOUD...

IT'S FINE.

turn

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BACK TO NORMAL, SENSEI.

P.E. FINISHED WHILE I WAS SLEEPING, SO IT'S FINE.

LET ME TAKE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE.

Oh.

KURI-HARA-KUN, SO YOU'RE AWAKE.

YOU SAY THAT, BUT...

I was ignored...

BRR

...

THANK YOU FOR THE BED.

GLARE...

It's not okay...!

THAT PERSON FROM EARLIER... HE STILL LOOKED REALLY PALE. WAS IT OKAY TO LET HIM GO LIKE THAT?

BEEP

OH, LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINISHED.

Ah.

SO...

rustle

Rattle

EXCUSE ME.

...

...I GOT THE FEEL NG THAT HE WAS GLARING AT ME TOO...

I'm worried about him...

HE'S ESPECIALLY ON EDGE THIS TIME.

EVERY TIME THERE'S AN EXAM PERIOD HE GETS REALLY PALE.

HUH? BUT TESTS AREN'T FOR ANOTHER THREE WEEKS. .

Ahh...

WELL.. YOU KNOW, HE VIEWS YOU AS HIS RIVAL.

HUH?

KURIHARA-KUN

END OF THE YEAR TEST
TOP 30

RANKING	NAME
1ST	KAWASE SHOJIYA
2ND	KURIHARA KIKU
3RD	

IS ALWAYS AFTER YOU IN SECOND PLACE, KAWASE-KUN.

FROM NEXT WEEK ONWARDS, ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON BREAK, BUT PLEASE STUDY WHEN YOU GET HOME.

FOR THE TWO WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE TEST, THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN AS A SELF-STUDY ROOM UNTIL SIX.

Let's stop by some-where!

Rattle

CAN I BORROW THAT CLASSICS PRINTOUT FROM THE OTHER DAY?

SURE, I'LL BRING T TOMORROW.

chatter

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY. DISMISSED~

You talk for too long, sensei~

Shut up

I COULD'VE BEEN HERE 10 MINUTES EARY

WASTING SO MUCH TIME

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US TO STUDY, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST ENDED HOMEROOM EARLIER

LIBRARY

rattle

AND TRY TO CONCEN-TRATE,

BUT

FROM NOW ON I CAN SIT IN THE FARTHEST CORNER OF THE LIBRARY

IF I'M AT SCHOOL AND HAVE A QUESTION I CAN ASK

irritated

irritated

irritated

scribble

scribble

scribble

scribble

scribble

scribble

...

...HEY.

glare

..GET OUT.

GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

HEY.

Un reasonable

THAT'S THE SEAT I ALWAYS SIT IN.

Ah...

YOU'RE THAT PERSON FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

annoyed

BESIDES, MR. TOP-OF-THE-CLASS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T GO TO THE LIBRARY, YOU'LL STILL GET FIRST PLACE.

IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU STAY OUT OF MY LINE OF SIGHT?

I HATE YOU, SO

...I'M SORRY, BUT THE LIBRARY IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.

WHERE YOU USUALLY SIT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING TO OFFEND YOU.

I'M ALSO DOING MY BEST.

...DON'T TALK ABOUT SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW.

.. Shut up.

WHAT?

SHUT UP!

IRRITATED.

POINT

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY THAT TO ME.

AH... I'M SORRY.

What's happening?

UM...

I heard Y-

PLEASE BE QUIET N THE LIBRARY...

KURIHARA-KUN, ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?

.. I'M SORRY.

You just got here, so you don't have to leave...

...I'LL STUDY AT HOME TODAY.

"You know, he views you as his rival.."

HE WAS SERIOUSLY ON EDGE

Hmmm...

IT FELT LIKE HE WAS VENTING OUT HIS ANGER ON ME

Maybe he needs more calcium?

This feels like DEJA Vu

I ENDED UP TALKING BACK TO HIM

RATTLE

SLAM!!

HE LOOKED EXTREMELY DESPERATE THOUGH

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP MY POSITION LIKE THIS

Sniiigh...

One more houuur~

yawn~

Ahaha!

And then, after

chatter

Ok

chatter

next time

Sniff...

I'D RATHER NOT BE SEEN BY SUCH AN UNLIKEABLE GUY

ARE THOSE VOCABULARY CARDS?

EEK!

VGH!

He does that while going to school...?

He's looking down

From yester-day...

WOW HE JUST STAGGERED, DIDN'T HE?

MAYBE HE

Aaah...

anxious

anxious

anxious

ACTUALLY DOES THIS EVERY DAY...?

Wah!

unsteady

AHH BUT SEE IF YOU WALK AND LOOK DOWN THEN

chatter

chatter

IT'S BEEN REALLY COLD LATELY I'M SO GRATEFUL I CAN USE THE MICROWAVE

THERE'S SOME STEWED FOOD TODAY TOO

I'LL JUST USE THE THE MICROWAVE AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE AGAIN

PEEK

HUH?

THERE'S NO WAY... HE ALREADY FINISHED EATING LUNCH.

THERE'S NO VENDING MACHINE OVER THERE...

JOLT!

...WH-AT!?

A NOTEBOOK... PEN CASE... AH, MAYBE THE LIBRARY?

THAT YELLOW BOX.

IS IT CALORIE FRIEND...? NO WAY...

T/N: CALORIE FRIEND IS A BRAND OF NUTRITIONAL ENERGY BARS & ENERGY GEL FOOD

flinch

Umm...

IS THAT ALL YOU'RE...

step

step

step

step

step

WAIT, YOU-

HANG ON!

EATING FOR LUNCH...?

You... Did you bring a proper lunchbox?

I DON'T NEED THAT.

TAKING TIME TO EAT IS WASTEFUL.

I ALWAYS GET THE ESSENTIAL CALORIES, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEMS.

HUH!?

That's not a good enough reason, is it...?

.THAT'S RIGHT. SO WHAT?

...

STOP POINTING.

slap

Ah, sorry.

No problems, you say...

WHY ?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU... IF YOU'RE DONE, I'M LEAVING.

...

scrawny

Siiighh...

scratch

scratch

scratch

..WHAT?

No... In exchange...

who

HERE!

losh

IF YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS DURING LUNCH TIME, IT'S NO WONDER YOU'RE SO TENSE.

YOUR COMPLEXION USUALLY LOOKS BAD!

YOU SHOULD EAT PROPERLY!

YOU HAD ANEMIA LAST TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

THE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES LOOK WORSE THAN AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE!!

Huh?

DON'T FOLLOW ME!

HOW NOSY

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU

Wait!

Your health will decline again!

I DON'T NEED IT! DON'T TALK TO ME!

PISSED

slap

Meals are important!

RIGHT~

swish
swish

sizzle

Brother, I've set the table~

Hey

DON'T BE PICKY AND EAT.

I'll g ve it to you, brother.

toma-to...

Eek~

PICKY

I WONDER IF HE S PICKY TOO?

The face he made makes t look like he is.

Yees~

I'M GONNA STUDY AFTER WE EAT, SO MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A BATH.

Thanks for the meal!

Kyaa!

Miki loves this!

Yay~

Kyaa!

Miku too!

Urgh...
Hmm...
Urgh...
AM I HATED?
SEEMS LIKE IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO GET INVOLVED ?
HE WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ME HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY
NO BUT IT'S SUPPOSEDLY HIS GROWTH PERIOD
IN THE END HE DIDN'T EAT MUCH AFTER THAT
HE MIGHT ORIGINALLY NOT EAT THAT MUCH BUT
ACTUALLY WILL HE REALLY BE OK BEING THAT THIN?
THAT'S RIGHT BUT-
IS THAT ALL OF YOUR MONOLOGUE?

click
tap
tap
tap
I'm homeee~
HE WILL HE BE LIKE THAT TOMORROW TOO?
WHY
DOES HIS FACE ALWAYS LOOK TIRED ?

KURIHARA!
Miku Miku Dance Monkey Ver.
SOMEHOW I CAN'T GET IT OFF MY MIND

Shouya, I'm sorry~ Even though I said I'd be coming home earlier starting today.
I stayed overtime
WELCOME HOME, MOM.
You'll have tests soon, right?
It's fine~
It's okay, what about dinner?
Welcome home!

slap

LET'S GO TOGE-

WOAH!

flinch

tap

MORNING.

NOT GOING.

ding-dong

clatter

chatter

chatter

I'm hungry!

RATTLE

IS KURIHARA HERE?

THUD

Ah...

OH MY

THUD

THUD

Morning Kurihara!

Kuri-

Kurihara!

Ah, you're with your Calorie friend today as well

You need to eat properly

Shut up So nasty.

Wah~

Wah~

Ah, Kawase-kun! What's the matter?

OH, KOBAYASHI-SAN.

I JUST NEED KURIHARA FOR A BIT...

Ah!

chatter

chatter

Kurihara! Have you eaten?

EH!? YOU'RE EATING WITH KURIHARA-KUN?

chatter

smile

chatter

stagger

run

run

KURIHARA,

YOU'RE STAGGERING..

THUD

pissed

DAMN THAT MEDDLESOME GUY!

I CAN MAKE UP FOR IT AT NIGHT, BUT I CAN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL

THUD

pissed

AT THIS RATE

pissed

THUD

ARE YOU TRYING TO GET IN MY WAY !?

EVERYDAY, HANGING AROUND ME..

THUD

SNAP

SMACK

STOP WITH THIS BULL-SHIT!

CRASH

THUD

YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND FRIVOLOUSLY AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO FREE...!

Wha-...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...!?

IT MIGHT NOT BE A LOT OF TIME, BUT I NEED IT TO CONCENT-RATE AND STUDY!

WHY ARE YOU DOING SUCH RECKLESS THINGS!?

KIKu

I NEVER ASKED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME!

LEAVE ME ALONE!

I WON'T!

It wasn't my intention to get in the way...!

You're always staggering in the morning, and you don't eat enough at lunch.

I was worried...

Sigh

PERSONAL RANKING

...THIS TIME WAS NO GOOD EITHER?

..I'LL INCREASE MY STUDY TIME FOR THE NEXT TEST

THAT KID IS THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS GETTING FIRST PLACE, ISN'T HE?

I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR GREETING AS THE NEW STUDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE, BUT ANOTHER KID STOLE IT. .

WHY CAN'T YOU GET FIRST PLACE NOW, EVEN THOUGH YOU OBVIOUSLY COULD BEFORE?

IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE CLASSES, RIGHT?

YOU WERE ALWAYS IN FIRST PLACE, TILL YOU ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL

MAKE SURE TO TRY HARDER NEXT TIME, OKAY?

IF YOU CAN'T DO THINGS YOU WERE ABLE TO DO ANYMORE, I'M SURE IT WILL BE TROUBLESOME LATER ON.

I WANT YOU TO ENTER A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND COMPANY, KIKU

tap

tap

...ka ra?

KURI-HARA!

...Are you al-right? Your face looks really pale...

...

slap

THAT'S ENOUGH MEDDLING.

Part 11...

OR GET IN MY WAY ANYMORE.

DON'T FOLLOW ME AROUND.

It's alright.

alright...

t's alright

EVEN IF I GET INTERRUPTED I CAN STILL DO IT

scribble

IT'S NOT A PROBLEM

scribble

CONCENTRATE

scribble

scribble

IF I CAN JUST CONCENTRATE

scribble

scribble

grit

THERE'S STILL SOME TIME SO

buzz

IF I CAN CALM DOWN

buzz

buzz

chatter

SECOND YEAR MIDTERM TESTS RANKING
TOP 30

chatter

chatter

How'd it go?

No good

chatter

1 KAWASE SHOUYA

2 KURIHARA KIKU

Hmm

chatter

chatter

KURI-
HARA..

he's
cry ng..?

grab

WAIT!!

Run

HEY,

KURI-
HARA!

Run

Run

...WHAT
IS T?

...ARE YOU
ALRIGHT .?

JUST LIKE USUAL, YOU'RE IN FIRST PLACE,

WHILE I'M IN SECOND.

THIS TIME TOO, I HAPPILY

GAVE UP MY SLEEPING TIME, BUT I STILL CAN'T BEAT YOU.

ALRIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ISN'T IT THE SAME AS USUAL?

tear

...!

SINCE EXAMS-... SINCE THE FIRST YEAR, I TOLD MY PARENTS THAT I WOULD ALWAYS BE FIRST, BUT

THIS TIME IT WAS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE, AFTER ALL...

cover

Ngh.

drip

drip

drip

KURI-HARA..

IT'S FINE.

Shut it...

DON'T KEEP IT INSIDE.

LET IT OUT.

Nh.

uu.

sting

Of course it's not fine

Why do you even care?

Damn it...

Why...

But with each test, my head just couldn't keep up with it

I thought I'd be able to do it this time

I'm so...

No matter how much time passes, I can't meet their expectations

shame-ful...

...

..The ranking...

drip

I'm so embarrassed

drip

drip

I don't want to become someone pathetic.

I'm tired from sighing, it's terrible.

I feel like I'm always alone.

I don't like eating by myself at night.

I want to talk about other things beside studying like before

I don't need people to find fault with my mistakes, I already know.

I don't like it when people point and talk about me.

. KURIHARA, PLEASE,

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

CLENCH

From the moment we first met he just kept glaring at me

The second time, he just complained.

He doesn't pretend to be friendly

and he's always frowning.

He doesn't want to let go.

The reason he's been so stiff until now, more than me,

more than his parents...

want to see his smiling face

..KURI-HARA,

YOU REALLY DID YOUR BEST, DIDN'T YOU?

This guy who says he's all alone

and support him

I want to be together

I FEEL LIKE

I WANT TO STAY BY HIS SIDE

CHAPTER 1 / END

ENTWINED TREES SCANS

MIHANADA PECTOLITE

Nayuta Nago

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CHAPTER TWO

SIT ANYWHERE YOU'D LIKE.

clunk

...

Haha.

YOU CAN RELAX A BIT MORE.

WELL, YOU SAAAID~ THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE WORKING TODAY.

I BOUGHT SOME UNDER-WEAR AT THE CONVEN ENCE STORE,

AND TEXTED MY MOM TO LET HER KNOW, THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF SHE SAW THE TEXT

And besides,

TODAY'S FRIDAY.

clatter

clatter

Anyways,

HERE'S SOME BARLEY TEA.

YOU SHOULD REPLENISH THE FLUIDS YOU LOST.

...

...You're the one who suddenly brought me here.

I SEE YOU'RE STILL A BUSYBODY...

Hey, hey, Kiku-chan.

I CAN'T VERY WELL LEAVE YOU ALONE

FOR TWO DAYS.

You're so scrawny, Kiku-chan.

What did you buy at the convenience store?

Do you want me to punish them?

What's busybody mean?

Can I have some of yours?

I'm thirsty too~

Did you cry? Did someone bully you?

HERE'S SOMETHING TO COOL YOU DOWN.

GEEZ...

pat

MIKU, MIKI, DON'T MAKE A PASS AT HIM.

giggle

Miku, you know that's an indirect kiss!

Right?

It's okay 'cause Kiku-chan's cute~

GOING TO MAKE DINNER...?

YEAH.

IF YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS, LET ME KNOW.

KURIHARA, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EAT?

ALSO, ANY FOODS YOU LIKE?

AH, YOU'RE

HMM~ YEAH, USUALLY.

MY PARENTS WORK TOO.

Not that I can make any fancy dishes!

What shall I cook~

...OH...

...DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE DINNER?

HEY, KURI-HARA.

...ARE YOU OKAY?

A few hours ago.

Welcome home!

Welcome home!

S-Sorry... for intru ding.

WELCOME HOME~

My oh my oh my, welcome to our house!

Aaahhh~

Oh my gosh~!! He's really here!

Oh myyy~

I'm sorry it's such a mess!

It's totally fine-! Make yourself at home!

S-sorry for... coming over so... suddenly...

EXCITED

EXCITED

The food's not enough, right? I bought cake. Are you okay with sweet things? Let's eat some later!

I was so surprised when I saw Shouya's text saying a friend was coming over!

EXCITED

YAY~

II

YAY~

II

II

YAY~

Kurihara-kun, are you eating enough?

Do you want seconds, Kiku-chan?

YAY~

Kiku-chan, you should eat tomatoes if you're feeling down!

Huh?

I'll give you mine too!

Stop being so picky!

YOU GUYS!

I'm tired...

thump

GIGHHHH

YOUR WHOLE FAMILY IS NOTHING BUT BUSY-BODIES...

STARE...

grumble

YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT..

If I was at home, I'd be looking over my test.

grumble

It's too loud, there's no way I can do it here.

grumble

SORRY IT WAS SO NOISY.

WE DON'T GET VISITORS OFTEN.

roll

...EACH AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU...

snuggle

THERE WAS SO MUCH FOOD.

AND THEY GAVE ME THEIR TOMATOES.

Haa...

...BUT, SOMEHOW...

I FEEL COMFORTABLE HERE...

Touch

...SAY, KURIHARA.

Hm?

WHY S BE NG NO.1 SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

HuH? WHY ARE YOU ASKING...?

stare

...I'm going to sleep!

...When I first got full marks

my parents were very happy...

laughs

AM I WRONG?

freeze

...YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR PARENTS, DON'T YOU?

...WHA-?

grab

NGH!

DON'T LAUGH!

THU-

MP

THIS IS WHY YOU PISS ME OFF!

YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!

HAH!?

SORRY, BUT I THINK I'LL REMEMBER THAT...

Ahaha

FORGET ABOUT IT!

SHIT...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING,

SHUT UP AND SLEEP. I HOPE YOU NEVER WAKE UP!

DON'T GET SO ANGRY

Ahaha! How mean.

Well then,

GOOD NIGHT

Heh.

Mama

Isn't it amazng?

Look at this!

Mama, look!

You have so many full marks!

You're amazing, Kiku!

And it's not just one paper!

You're amazing...!

Let's tell dad about this!

You really, really studied

with all your might, didn't you~?

...RIGHT,

I'M AT HIS HOUSE.

Yay!

Kiku-chan woke up! Good morning!

Ah~!!

IT'S BECAUSE I TOLD HIM

clack

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.

I don't know who is who..

THEY'RE ALREADY SO ENERGETIC

YAY!

Look at Miku's bed head!

Ahaha

It's amazing!!

YAY!

Why?

You don't have bed head!

The no.1 sleepyhead-!

That's good!

AH... I GUESS...

Did you sleep alright?

PERFECT TIMING.

Mornin'.

push

push

DON'T TOUCH ME.

Alright then, go and wash your face.

Use whatever towel you'd like.

Hurry up and go! And afterwards...

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO MAKE BREAKFAST.

Is bread okay?

breakfast

You can help me out~!

I DON'T EVEN EAT BREAKFAST, SO THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH...

WHAT!?

..I TOLD YOU I'M FINE WITH JUST WATCHING.

Kurihara... I guess you really can't cook at all.

munch

munch

I can't cut it...

The edges are burnt.

soft

shiny

LOOK AT THIS SPRINGI-NESS!

LOOK AT THIS SHINY HAIR!

fluffy

fluffy

YOU DON'T EAT BREAKFAST, KIKU-CHAN!?

CLATTER

I get it already, so...

Got it...

press

stare

Sorry... Those are my mother's teachings...

BREAK-FAST!!!!

NOT EATING

MORNINGS ARE THE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS, YOU KNOW!?!?

AND THAT'S ALL THANKS TO BREAK-FAST, YOU KNOW!?!?

creak

Huh~?

ISN'T THAT TROUBLESOME?

I'll get you some.

YOU NEED A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, RIGHT?

I ONLY NEED A SHIRT.

I'LL WEAR MY UNIFORM PANTS.

sigh

Thanks for the meal!

shuts

Phew.

WE CAN FINALLY TAKE A BREATHER-

Could it be

YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON AFTER THIS?

I CAN'T RELAX WHEN I'M AT SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE.

AHH, I SEE...

IT'S FINE.

I'LL BE GOING HOME AFTER I CHANGE.

Huh?

Uhm...

...I'LL GO AND BRUSH MY TEETH.

opens

?

rustle

Here.

IS A T-SHIRT AND HOODIE OKAY?

I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING.

jolt

suddenly

UWAHI

GRABS

squeeeeeze

...SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...

Then,

I'LL SEND YOU OFF.

You didn't leave anything behind, right?

Kiku chan!

so you can win against those bullies now!

We gave you some of our energy.

We'll cast it for you again if it's not enough!

Here! It's a charm that makes you feel better!

Okay!

...MIKU AND MIKI,

THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE FINE, 'KAY?

HEY, KURI-HARA,

...

they're worried about you because your eyes were swollen.

Ahaha!

Looks like there's some weird misunderstanding.

...

I GET THAT YOU WANT TO LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS,

BUT IT'S BAD IF YOU'RE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF IT, RIGHT?

ABOUT THINGS LIKE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

I STILL THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU TALK TO YOUR PARENTS.

Just saying, it should be easy, right?

PLUS, THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THINGS MIGHT SURPRISINGLY WORK OUT IF YOU JUST TRY SAYING IT, YOU KNOW?

OH,
GOT IT.
SEE YOU,
THEN!

I KNOW
THE WAY
BACK FROM
HERE.

RIGHT
HERE IS
FINE.

...

...KURI-
HARA!

WHAT
NOW...?

squeeze

YOU'LL
BE FINE!

ruffle s

thump

grins

squeeze

I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT ALRIGHT!

ruffles

YOU'LL BE FINE, OKAY?

blush

WHA-...

ruffles

ruffles

This charm works like magic, that's why-!

WHAT AN IRRITATING GUY..!

I'm not a kid...!!

STOMP

STOMP

Ah, by the way, I'm the one who invented this charm.

I taught them that.

smack

WHY DO I HAVE TO GET A CHARM FROM A GUY LIKE YOU!!?

Ouch.

Hey!

YOU SHOULD COME TO MY HOUSE FOR A MEAL AGAIN!

I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU DO!

..BUSYBODY!

sigh...

...

"JUST TRY SAYING IT"...

silence

click

opens

slams

slumps

WOULD I BE ABLE TO SAY IT ?

THINGS LIKE WHAT I WANT TO DO

THAT KINDA THING

click

click

EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT IT'S BETTER TO SPEAK WITH THEM ABOUT IT,

WHAT I'M THINKING

thud

step

click

shine

...IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO BE SLEEPING OVER THERE...

WAH!

JUMPS

jumps

click

thud

...WELCOME HOME. YOU'RE EARLY.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

POUR'S

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASLEEP FOR? IT'S ALREADY EVENING.

I DO GET OFF EARLY ONCE IN A WHILE.

...

thump

thump

YOUR TEST.

YOU GOT BACK YOUR RESULTS SLIP, RIGHT?

thump

flip

"THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE FINE, 'KAY?"

thump

THINGS LIKE

WHAT I WANT TO DO

thump

I CAN'T POSSIBLY

thump

...MOM.

...I DIDN'T GET FIRST PLACE THIS TIME EITHER.

"YOU'LL BE FINE!"

I'LL BE FINE

Squeeze

THE REASON I STARTED STUDYING HARD,

WASN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET INTO A GOOD COMPANY

OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

BUT...

I WON'T BE INCREASING MY STUDY HOURS ANYMORE.

not meeting your expectations.

I'm sorry for

It was because you looked happy.

so...

THAT'S..

turns

...YOUR FATHER, TOO...

HE USED TO ASK ME IF I WAS...

PUSHING YOU TOO HARD TO STUDY...

...I'M SORRY.

EVEN THOUGH I'D ALWAYS REPLY THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WORKED HARD WITHOUT COMPLAINING,

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE SAID TOO MUCH...

YEAH...

not exactly my friend... More like...

Huh? Ah,

...THAT HOODIE, IS IT YOUR FRIEND'S?

WHEN YOU SUDDENLY MESSAGED ME ABOUT SPENDING THE NIGHT OUT.

I WAS SURPRISED

YOU SHOULD

GIVE THEM THANK-YOU GIFTS NEXT TIME YOU SEE THEM.

thud

...

IT WAS EASIER THAN I EXPECTED..

thud

...

Pfft.

Haha.

...OR RATHER,

THE CHARM ACTUALLY WORKED...

ding dong

Where for lunch?

The vending machine~

Staying at my house so suddenly and all...

Hey, were your parents okay with it?

step

...Going to the library again?

step

step

Hey~!

ignored

step

WAI-HEY!

IGNORING ME?

-E?

KURIHARA, YOU THER-.

slide

I was so sure you'd be going to the library...

...? THE COURT-YARD...?

rustle

HUH?

I'M RETURNING THIS.

munch

munch

Ahh, the hoodie.

Thanks for bringing it all the way...

HERE...

...

munch

Huh?

What!? Are you eating properly again because the test is over!?

munch

munch

Calorie Friend

YOU'RE NOT EATING CALORIE FRIEND TODAY!

!!!

JUMP

What's this all of a sudden...

ALSO, THOSE TWINS,

WHAT DO THEY LIKE?

OR BELL PEPPERS

OR TURNIPS.

?

NOT FISH EITHER, THE BONES ARE ANNOYING TO PICK.

?

I DON'T REALLY LIKE CUCUMBERS.

HAH?

...

Is that so~?

I WANNA DO SOMETHING FOR THEM AS THANKS FOR THE CHARM.

!

Instead of what you hate to eat,

you should tell me what you like instead~

...

HOT TOFU.

Ah... I can sort of tell.

HUH?

Ahaha!

CHAPTER 2 / END

ENTWINED TREES SCANS

MINAMDA PECTOLITE

Nayuta Nago

Chapter 2

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CHAPTER
THREE

At the time,

was struck by the suddenness of it.

More than anything,

The twins were even younger than they are now

having finally grown taller than mom, her figure seemed so painfully frail

I had to pull myself together

ISN'T THIS YOUR FATHER?

CORRECT ME F I'M WRONG, BUT

HMM?

KURIHARA, WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT THIS TIME?

..SAY, KAWASE,

Ouch.

YOU DON'T SEEM NTERES-TED.

HM..

YOUR FACES LOOK ALIKE..

Haha, GUESS SO!

Ah, about that..

WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH,

HE GOT IN AN ACCIDENT.

...SO IS THIS HOW YOUR FAMILY SITUATION CAME TO BE LIKE THIS?

YUP, YUP.

BOISTEROUS!?

No,

LOOKING CLOSER AT IT, YOUR FACE IS MORE BOISTEROUS.

stare...

SHOCK

...SO THEN, THE REASON YOU'RE AIMING FOR FIRST PLACE IS TO GET A GRANT..

YEAH

Correct

MOM TOLD ME NOT TO HOLD BACK AND GO TO UNIVERSITY.

I thought I should use whatever I can get.

YEAH... SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING SHE'D SAY.

SO DON'T THINK I'LL GO EASY ON YOU~

HMPH... I DON'T NEED TO BE FIRST PLACE OUT OF PITY.

...

...IT WAS HORRIBLE OF ME.

HUH?

Since you're here and all?

AH, SHOULD I GIVE YOU A STICK?

An incense stick.

WELL, IT'S A REALLY COMMON STORY.

Can't be helped

...

It's completely fine! I told you not to worry about it.

Ohh~

...

At the library.

Whisper

Whisper

?

...

?

WHAT WAS?

?

O-owww...

You pack quite a punch in your kick...

SHUDDUP!

Ouch!

kick

The library incident

It's all water under the bridge now!

shouldn't need to study

Mr. First Place

Kurihara, you're such a serious person.

I put in effort too,

you know!?

Chatter

Will the drawing material last?

Chatter

Sports Festival

What do you mix with this?

Haha!

...AND SO,

DISTRIBUTE THE FORMS IN EACH CLASS, PLEASE.

What? But

Then

IT TOOK LONGER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD

step

step

BY THIS WEEKEND, COLLECT SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE CLASS SONGS AND BRING THEM TO ME, PLEASE.

Okay, dismissed~

chatter
chatter
Oh ?
THE SPORTS CLUB'S NEXT
LAUGHTER
chatter
chatter
=Huh!?=No,=
no,-not there...
chatter
chatter
S-
...Sca-red the hell outta me!
What the, it's Kawase...
Woah..
STIFF
thump
thump
thump
Haha~
SORRY, SORRY.
PLOP
JOLT
...What an unusual pairing!
JUMP
ACK!

"DON'T TALK TO ME" AURA

TO BE HONEST, IT FELT SUPER HARD TO APPROACH HIM BEFORE.

NOT EVEN A LITTLE.

MURAKAMI-KUN, HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH KURIHARA?

Ah...

Soo scary~

No way.

no way.

BUT LATELY HIS AURA SEEMS TO HAVE SOFTENED UP, AND HE STARTED TALKING WITH MURAKAMI.

Huh!?

I WAS SUPER NERVOUS THE FIRST TIME HE SPOKE TO ME...!

BEFORE, HIS GAZE SEEMED TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO KILL PEOPLE.

WHAT?

Yup~!

IT WAS LIKE HE SEIZED THE CHANCE OF THIS SPORTS FESTIVAL TO BECOME CLOSER~

Huh?

KAWASE.

Move.

I'M GLAD HE MADE FRIENDS IN HIS CLASS

OH! THEY LOOK CHUMMY TOGETHER

Aren't you running your mouth off?

Wha-at?

Huh?

AND, ACTUALLY, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PREPARATIONS TO DO IN YOUR CLASS?

FIDGETY

WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A WEIRD FACE?

Are you practicing funny faces?

You're so suited for the part!!!

Weeell...

I COULDN'T REFUSE...

Haha...

...

LAUGH

Ah.

I HAD A COMMITTEE MEETING, I'LL BE HEADING TO CHEERLEADING PRACTICE NEXT.

So I was exempted.

Whoa...

BY COMMITTEE, YOU MEAN THE SPORTS FESTIVAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?

SOUNDS ROUGH~

ARE YOU DOING THAT ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE?

Oh!

So until the end of the sports festival, what with practice and all, I probably won't be able to spend lunchtime with you as much as before.

Sorry.

BLU-

Not like we made any promises together, so it doesn't matter.

NT.

ROUND TWO!

Sigh

...Ahh,

That's mean!

It's because you seem so eager to please.

clatter

I'll be on my way too, then.

Ah!

HEY!

Deciding on your own~

Oh, I'll leave it to you then!

I'm-glad~

In that case, Kurihara should eat with us.

Heey~

Guys~

Get back to work already!

Ahaha

Ahh, sorry~

I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

KAWASE SEEMS BUSY.

STUPID! DID YOU LOSE IT?

THIS IS BAAAD... WHERE'D I PUT IT?

ACK! I'D FORGOTTEN.

SATOU-KUN, DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT THE EQUIPMENT FORM BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

This is bad...

HE HAS TOO MUCH ON HIS PLATE...

THAT PEOPLE PLEASER.

KAWASE~

I wonder if it's okay to tell the teacher?

LOOKS LIKE THE DRAWING MATERIAL FOR THE CLASS WALL PAINTING WILL BE RUNNING OUT SOON.

ABOUT THE FORM FOR THE RELAY PRACTICE VENUE...

IT'S RAINING TODAY, SO THE CHEERLEADING PRACTICE VENUE HAS BEEN CHANGED.

Huh!?

TOMOR-ROW!?

KAWASE, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE FITTING FOR THE CHEERLEADING UNIFORM?

I HEARD IT'S TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL.

AAAAH~

WE'LL DECIDE THE PERSON IN CHARGE BY ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS...

exhale...

nodding off...

KNOCK KNOCK

ARE YOU GONNA MAKE DINNER SOON?

poof

FIIIINALLY I CAN REST...

press

HEY, BIG BROTHER.

press

I was about to fall asleep.

Ah

ACK!

That was close...

...HAMBURGER IT IS, THEN

Meat~

WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT?

shuffle

shuffle

HAVEN'T SEEN HIM!?!?

PROB-ABLY!?

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY, SO...

HE'S PROBABLY OKAY, I THINK.

IS HE OKAY?

KIKU-CHAN HASN'T BEEN COMING OVER LATELY.

Ugh.

It's not like that!

S-Should we give him a good luck charm!?

IS HE SICK!?

DID YOU FIGHT!?

WHY!?

RUSH

(PING)

Do you need a good luck charm!?

...WHAT THE?

MIKU AND MIKI ARE GONNA SEND HIM A MESSAGE!

Just this once!

BROTHER, LEND US YOUR CELL PHONE!

DASH

HEY! WAIT!

Listen to me!!

KIKU-CHAN, ARE YOU FEELING WELL!? ARE YOU OKAY!?

HUH?

HELLO..

AH!

jolt

bzzz

bzzz

Kawase

HELLO? SORRY, IT'S ME.

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?

JUST A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT LED TO CONCERN...

Not fair

Geez~

It's Miku!

It's Miku!

Well, I can't tell which is which...

AH.. THE TWINS?

Ah!

LIFT

YOU ACTUALLY CALLED HIM...

UGH..

THEY'RE JUST AS NOISY AS YOU. IT'S LIKE HAVING A PAIR OF KAWASES.

Whaat!?

Is that all you're having for lunch?

So little..

Ahaha! Seems like there's no problem, then.

ARE YOU GETTING ALONG FINE WITH MURAKAMI AND THE OTHERS?

WHAT IN THE WORLD..

Ugh.

HERE COMES THE BUSYBODY.

HMM ..

BUT THEY LET ME GO HOME EARLY AND STUFF

AAH... SOMEWHAT

...

creak

..WHAT, ARE YOU THAT BUSY?

DID YOU TAKE A BREAK?

Are you getting worried because you haven't seen me much!?

YOU REALLY DO PISS ME OFF!

SNAP

It's strange to hear that coming from you!

What's gotten into you, Kurihara!?

WH-..

...HAHA.

TO THINK THAT KURIHARA WOULD ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

How was Kiku chan?

:48

beep

beep

...

Ah...

He never answered...

Boo~

Boo~

Noo!

We wanted to talk to him too!

Not fair~

HE'S FINE, HE'S FINE. C'MON, LET'S GO BACK TO MAKING DINNER~

WHOA!

Kun!

GRAB

JUMP

OH!

KA-

WA-

SE-

HUH, WHAT?

AH, MURAKAMI-KUN.

thump

thump

'MORNING~

thump

I SAW YOU AT CHEERLEADING PRACTICE THE OTHER DAY.

DO YOU HAVE PRACTICE TODAY TOO?

Gyanaha~

Hahaha, sorry~

GEEZ.. SO YOU'RE THE KIND TO FOOL AROUND, MURAKAMI.

YOU'RE WELL INFORMED, AREN'T YOU?

UH-HUH~

Just look at that sullen face between me and Tomosaka!

TA-DAH!!

I KINDA GET THAT..

IT LOOKS SO NATURAL.

THE CHEERLEADING CLUB'S UNIFORM IS SO COOL~

click

THE OTHER DAY, A GIRL FROM THE CLUB WAS A LITTLE EAGER TO LET US TRY THEM ON...

BUT YOU SEE, KURIHARA-KUN LIKES DOGS, YOU KNOW?

Huh?

It wasn't easy, you know~!

You two are even wearing the skirts!

Whoa, he really does look grumpy!

It's amazing that Kurihara even agreed to wear it.

HE SOMEHOW GOT HIM TO TAKE THE UNIFORM TOP AND POM-POMS...

AND TOMOSAKA HAS A DOG, SO HE USED THAT TO LURE KURIHARA IN.

Seriously though, it was no easy feat!

What...?

REALLY...?

YOU'RE BLOCKING THE WAY TO THE SHOE RACK.

—You're energetic even this early.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH FUN IF YOU'D BEEN THERE TOO-

WHA-!?

DID YOU SHOW HIM THAT!?

Sorry~

Ah, Kurihara-kun!

..? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

THE OTHER DAY ON THE PHONE, YOU-. .

...HEY?

HUH?

AH .

YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTH NG WEIRD, DID YOU...?

AH... AND YOU, KAWASE.

I DIDN'T, I DIDN'T!

...Something

I don't know about him.

IT'S A BIT SURPRISING.

I wonder if there are other things...

I GUESS I WAS SURPRISED...

AHH, NO...

KURIHARA,

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU LIKE DOGS.

that only I

don't know about...

AH!

...ANYWAY, LOOK...'

...

SHOULDN'T WE BE IN THE CLASSROOMS BY NOW?

Let's go!

Ohhh

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT GUY,

DOESN'T HE SEEM QUIETER THAN USUAL?

REALLY?

Isn't he the same as always?

...

CHATTER

I wonder if we'll finish the painting today.

So today, around half past four.

CHATTER

Is there a punchline?

So then he said-

SATOU.

CHATTER

CHATTER

THIS FORM...

lift

Oops...

URGH, I'D FORGOTTEN...

GET A GRIP.

HMM?

THIS FORM,

It was on the floor.

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HAND IT IN BY TODAY?

...Ack!

...OH, BUT

KAWASE WILL JUST DROP BY AGAIN SOMETIME. I CAN HAND IT TO HIM THEN.

He doesn't get mad...

I'LL DO IT

I'LL TAKE IT TO HIM

SHOCK

...-DO IT.

HUH?

School's almost over, too

Scary.!

H-

here you go...

What got into him all of a sudden!?

!?

RIGHT NOW

HUH!?

AH!

LOWER YOUR ARM A L TTLE OVER THERE!

YESSIR!

BE CAREFUL.

...AH.

SORRY, IT'S TIME... CAN I TAKE MY LEAVE NOW?

YEAH. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER NEXT TIME, OKAY?

KAWASE, YOUR VOICE ISN'T COMING OUT!

...YES-SIR.

pissed

IRRitated

pissed

IRRitated

It's like I'm on edge or something.

I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS THE WHOLE DAY

SHALL WE TAKE A LITTLE BREAK?

Yes~

stop

..AH.

SIGH

THAT'S NOT GOOD

I NEED TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER

I FOR-
GOT...

OH

GOOD

HE'S
HERE

...

SHIT...

...

...KAWA-
SE.

...OH.

SEEM LIKE HE'D BE HANDING IT IN TODAY.

HE DIDN'T

WHAT'S WRON-

WOAH!

SHOVE

AH!

KURI-HARA.

step

step

You really saved me~

stare

...

Ahh~

DID YOU COME OVER TO BRING IT TO ME?

THANK YOU!

laugh

WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?

...

YOU.

YOUR CLASS IS DOING PREP-ARATIONS, TOO-

Umm...

ISN'T IT PILING UP FOR YOU?

YOU WERE WEIRD THIS MORNING, TOO.

Huh...?

Kurihara...?

Huh?

I BET YOU DIDN'T EXPLAIN YOUR FAMILY SITUATION PROPERLY, DID YOU?

YOU DON'T COMPLAIN OR WHINE, AND YOUR LAUGH IS ALWAYS HOLLOW.

thump

WHEN IT SEEMS SOMEONE MIGHT WORRY ABOUT YOU, YOU TRY TO DECEIVE THEM.

EVEN THOUGH YOU KEEP WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS,

What...

thump

...

I'M NOT DECEIVING THEM, OR ANYTHING ..

thump

...

IS THAT SO...

thump

gulp

The truth is,

thump

Ahh...

SEE, IF I START COMPLAINING,

thump

there are times when I think it's suffocating.

or that it's annoying to study after getting home

have thoughts like that sometimes.

thump

Haha.

I FEEL LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MY BEST ANYMORE,

AND I'M NOT SO TIRED THAT I HAVE TO SAY-

But,

it's something that can't be helped.

pat

BECAUSE...

FOR ME?

IS THIS PERHAPS A GOOD LUCK CHARM?

...YOU'LL BE FINE IF I DO THIS, RIGHT?

...WHAT? KURI-HARA, WHAT'RE YOU-

...YOU'RE LIKE THAT,

SOMEONE HAS TO ENCOURAGE YOU.

Having to pull myself together...

Squeeze

WHA-..

.. SO THEN,

YOU'LL ENCOURAGE ME?

thud

WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?

siiigh

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

...RECHARGING ENERGY?

KURIHARA,

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY A VERY KIND PERSON.

.. To be told

someth ng

ke that..

YOU KNOW, SINCE YOU'VE SOMEHOW BECOME VERY CLOSE WITH YOUR CLASS-MATES-

HUH?

What're you even saying?

...IF OTHERS FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR KINDNESS AND YOU BECAME POPULAR, WHAT WOULD I DO?

sIIIIIghs

KURIHARA,

THANK YOU.

shake

shake

ARE YOU STUPID?

LEAVE ALREADY.

GRAB

EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE FIRST ONE TO BECOME CLOSE TO YOU...

Hahaha!

HAHA, I SEE..

Heh, heh..

IT JUST PISSED ME OFF HOW YOU WERE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.

...IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.

..I GUESS,

I DON'T HATE THEM.

DO YOU LIKE CATS?

...

THAT REMINDS ME, KURI-HARA,

SERIOUSLY? NICE!

OUR PLACE IS RENTED, SO WE CAN'T HAVE ANY.

MY UNCLE'S PLACE HAD CATS, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS NICE...

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT YOU WANNA DO?

I DREAM OF HAVING LOADS AND LOADS OF CATS.

WANNA HEAD OUT TOGETHER, THEN?

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LEAVE...

NO,

DO YOU STILL HAVE CLASSES?

ANYWAY, I'M HEADING HOME FOR TODAY.

LET'S GO GET YOUR BAG, KURIHARA.

YEAH..

Huh?

AAH...

The one you brought

OH, I'LL CHECK THE FORM WHEN I GET HOME.

Miku and Miki wanted to talk to you.

Uhuh.

Is there a way to tell those twins apart?

There's sort of a way...

0 0

Huh?

What

d d I just do.. ?

CHAPTER 3 /END

ENTWINED TREES SCANS

MINAMDA PECTOLITE

Nayuta Nago

Chapter 3

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BAM

Well then, I'll be heading that way.

The timing was never good to talk about t, either

After that, neither of us brought up what happened.

BAM

BAM

BAM

And not long after, it was t me for the sports festiva

That's all! Opposite team, start cheerlead-ing com-petition!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

BAM

Yo!

...

So hot...

The morning part is over

afternoon part will start in an hour...

well done!

I KNOW THAT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BUT

WE ... BE BACK TO HAVING LUNCH TOGETHER I GUESS

WHEN TODAY'S OVER

WHAT IF HE WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ?

Kawa-se~

Since I don't know why I did t,

what am supposed to say ..?

KuRI-
HARA

You did well!

Wanna eat lunch together?

Seriously though, the cheering party sure looks dashing in those uniforms!

Thanks~

Y-... You've worked hard.

...

Let's eat in the courtyard~

KAWASE.

YES!?

BA-DUMP

KURIHARA MUST BE ANGRY

THAT SO?

SAME AS ALWAYS?

UM, ERRR..

...?

?? ?

Huh?

HOW HAVE THINGS BEEN AT YOUR PLACE?

...LATELY.

At my place?

You've been worried about me ever since then?

KURIHARA, COULD IT BE...

...AH.

...!

YOU'VE WORKED HARD.

WE..L,

AHH..

HUG

-O...

Kurihara, you're serio-usly a good guy...!

Wha-

YOU BROUGHT T ON YOURSELF, BUT YOU WORKED HARD.

...NEXT TIME, TRY TO LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE A LITTLE, AND SAY NO WHEN YOU NEED T-

Shake

Shake

Hey, Kawase-

Thank you for worrying about me...

KAWA-SE!

squeeze

Seriously though, it's thanks to your good luck charm!

squeeze

Wai-

Hey!

squeeze

cough

S-... SORR-...!

release

I get it already, so let go.

STRUGGLE

HM?

!

AGH!

It's only natural that he'd yell at...

YES!!?

...you.

...forcibly did something weird again...!

What the hell's gotten into me since then.?

S-..

SORRY...?

HM?

Huh!?

UH...

!?

YOU OVERREACT TO EVERY LITTLE THING.

MY NECK HURTS, YOU KNOW...

IS THAT A...

WHAT ?

OKAY...

OK...

LET'S CATCH UP WITH MURAKAMI AND THE GUYS.

ba-dump

Huh?

ba-dump

..Ku-

KURI-HARA...?

ba-dump

ba-dump

blush

ba-dump

squeeze

ba-dump

(thump

ba-dump

ba-dump

Rather

gotta

ba-dump

WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

keep talk ng...

ba-dump

ba-dump

ba-dump

ba-dump

ba-dump

Kawase~ Kurihara~

STARTLE

ba-dump

I'LL GO CHANGE.

TOMOSAKA'S GOING TO THE VENDING MACHINE AND WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU WANT ANYTHING~

Okay~

WELL THEN, WE'LL BE HEADING TO THE YARD FIRST.

ba-dump

step

OH... I'LL GO TOO!

...Some how,

WHY THEN NOW

IT'S

...

CLOSE

is this, by any chance..

And.. kiss ng him.

Wanting to see him laugh..

Becom ng nterested n h m, or not being able to leave him alone..

HUH?

WHAT?

WHOA

IT'S LIKE

I LIKE KURIHARA

OR SOME-THING

SERIOUSLY?

WHOA I CAN'T SAY IT, CAN I ?

UGH

IS THAT THE REASON ?

HUH?

AH ERR BUT THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT

sigh

WELL, FOR NOW,

...What to doo-oo~?

SLUMP

bump

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM DURING THE WEEKEND.

YEAH..

20:09

Do you have some free time tomorrow or the day after tomorrow?

HM?

CLOSE

...

HUH?

WHAT'S WITH THIS ROUNDABOUT MESSAGE?

sit

HE NORMALLY GETS STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...

20:15
KURIHARA
Do you have some free time tomorrow or the day after tomorrow?
No
Huh!?
DING
!
H-... HELLO?
IT'S ME.
ARE YOU FREE NOW?
RING RING RING
Whoa!
A phone call!
CAN'T YOU TELL ME ON THE PHONE?
WELL, IF POSSIBLE...
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON
Huh!?
MEET ME THERE IN 10 MINUTES.
THEN GRAB YOUR WALLET AND HEAD TO THE PARK.

I DON'T WANNA DO ANYTHING TOMORROW, SO...

YOU WERE SAYING TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, WHICH MEANS THE SOONER THE BETTER.

ISN'T IT A PAIN TO GO OUT JUST FOR THIS?

NO, WE-L... KURIHARA, AREN'T YOU TIRED?

Right now!?

I'M NOT

I WAS FEELING LIKE GOING TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE, ANYWAY.

NOT REALLY.

MENTALLY PREPARED YET!?

toot CALL ENDED CALL TIME 00:01:31 toot

BEEP

Ah...!

WELL THEN, SEE YOU

T-
Too fast..!

...

"DON'T WANNA DO ANYTHING"...

THUD

IMMA HEAD OUT FOR A BIT!

What?

TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY OUT...?

THUD

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

IT'S FINE.

I CALLED YOU OUT SUDDENLY, AFTER ALL.

KURI-HARA!

...ERR,

WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER TIME..

I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT

SO,

WHAT IS IT?

gulp

WHOA. RIGHT TO THE POINT

...!

AND ON TOP OF IT, I MISSED MY CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE.

SO...

WHEN I SUDDENLY DID THAT...

I'M TRULY SORRY!

SIGH

IT'S FINE.

FEEL FREE TO PUNCH ME ONCE OR TWICE,

OR UNTIL YOU FEEL SATISFIED...

BUT I'M NTERESTED IN THE REASON.

It did surprise me.

IT'S NOTHING TO GET ALL WORKED UP ABOUT.

...Huh?

WHY CAN'T YOU SAY?

ba-dump

C- Can't say...

WHY?

Th-...

-at

I cannot say.

WHY NOT?

...

sigh...

YOU REALLY ARE. .

GULP

...

ba-dump

It's just-

ba-dump

Th-...

The reason...

ba-dump

ba-dump

...If I said it,

Y-

you'd be

troubled, proba- bly...

ba-dump

BLUNT

WHERE DID THAT SHAMELESS MEDDLING ATTITUDE OF YOURS GO?

AND ACTUALLY, THIS HESITANT ATTITUDE IS REALLY ANNOY-ING.

YOU WON'T KNOW IF I'M TROUBLED OR NOT TILL YOU SAY IT, RIGHT?

BLUNT

BLUNT

SHAME-LESS ..17

Huh?

SO STUPID DESPITE BEING SMART.

THERE'S NO OTHER REASON I CAN THINK OF. THAT'S WHY I SAID IT'S FINE.

...FOR ME, KISSING SOMEONE WOULD MEAN LIKING THEM.

YOU...

ARE NOT..

AM I WRONG?

...

WELL THEN, THAT DOESN'T REALLY TROUBLE ME.

What?

ba-dump

ba-dump

SO, UM... I LIKE YOU, KURIHARA.

Somehow, this feeling...

WHAT ABOUT YOU...?

It's like Kurihara, too.

...I DON'T HATE YOU.

ba-dump

...!

ba-dump

...

...IF YOU WANT TO,

THEN DO IT?

I... SEE...

SO THEN... IF I SAID

I WANTED TO KISS YOU AGAIN,

ba-dump

ba-dump

WOULD YOU MIND...?

ba-dump

...

inch forward...

THEN...

inch forward...

...

...

...GET ON WITH IT ALREADY!

Huh?

WHOA!

YANK

grab

HOLD-

Mpl

...HEY-

Mpl

...w!

...

Huff

..s-

pull

STOP!!

SHOVE

BLUSH

BLUSH

BLUSH...

Ah...!

CONSIDER YOUR SUR-ROUND-INGS!

...AH.

I was happy...

slump

Sorry... It's just...

realize

...

I'll be careful...

GOT TOO GREEDY

...IS IT OKAY IF I CONSIDER THE SURROUNDINGS?

SO WAIT, KURIHARA...

The minute I realized it, it was like a dam broke

IT'S MUTUAL.

AFTER ALL...

...ISN'T IT FINE?

deeply in love with Kurihara.

I'm so

...I SEE.

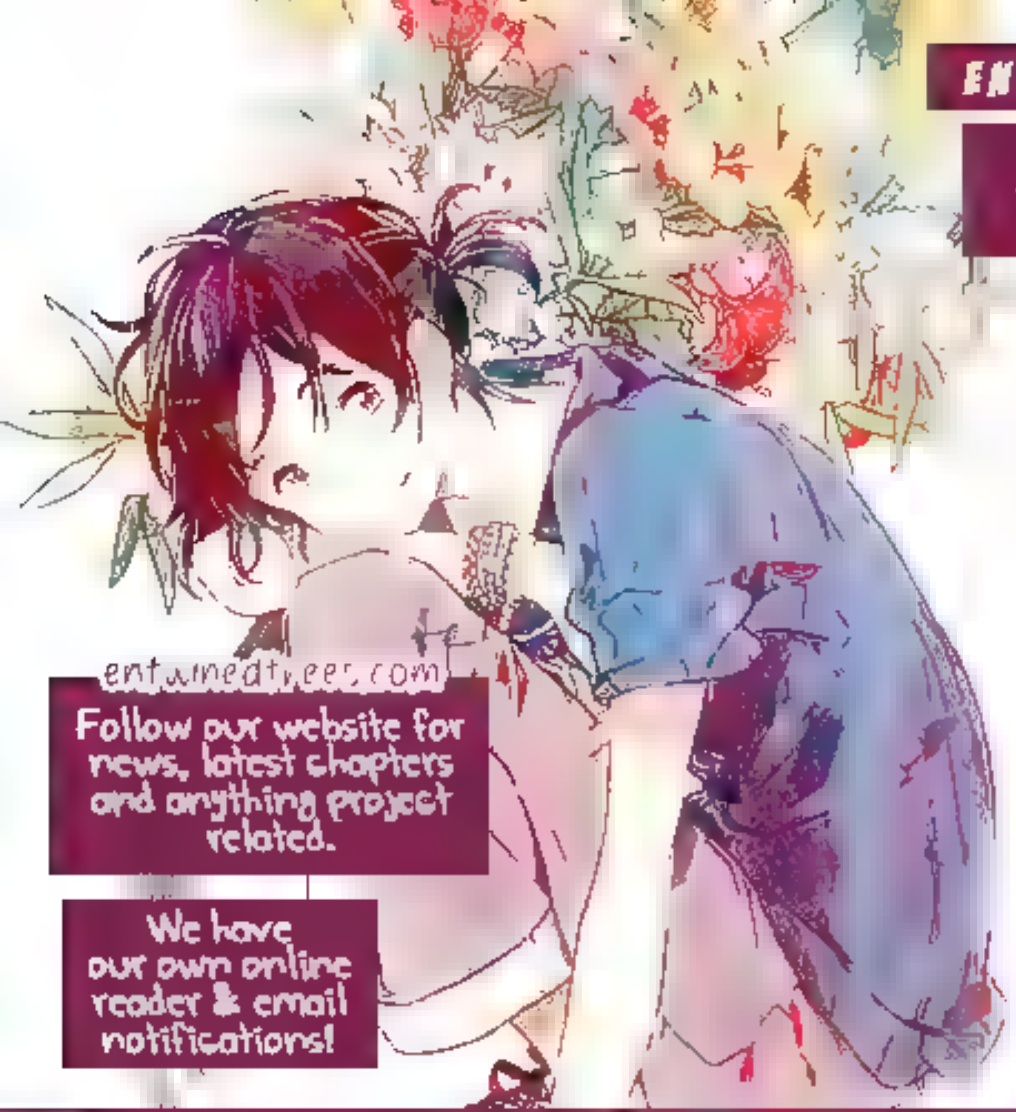
ARE YOU GOING TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE NOW?

YEAH, IT'S YOUR TREAT.

HUH!?

I didn't say you were off the hook...

CHAPTER 4 /END



ENTWINED TREES SCANS

MIHANADA PECTOLITE

Nayuta Nago

Chapter 4

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yap

yap

t's been two months s nce the spo rts festiva ended.

yap

...

2nd Ser Ranking

The end of term test results came out.

chatter

chatter

1ST Kawase Shouya
2ND Kurihara Kiku

chatter

PISSES ME OFF...

HUH?

...

...KURI-HARA?

IT MAKES NO SENSE...

WHOA!

HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET FIRST PLACE WHEN YOU HAD SO MUCH ON YOUR PLATE!?

GRRR!

KURIHARA, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK?

NOT REALLY.

WELL THEN!

THE GAP IN OUR GRADES CLOSED UP A LITTLE MORE THIS TIME..

NEXT TIME, I'LL DO A BIT MORE...

After tests are done

...HA-HAHA~

w nter
br eak
beg ns.

LET'S DO THE HOMEWORK AT MY PLACE!

click

DING DONG

IT'S A WE RD FEELING

AND SLEEPING OVER TOO

ISN'T THIS THE F RST TIME I'VE GONE TO HIS HOUSE WITHOUT SCHOOL F RST?

COME TO THINK OF IT

CLICK

smile

Hey!

Welcome!

step step

GOT IT.

I'LL GET SOME DRINKS.

YOU CAN HEAD TO MY ROOM FIRST~

H-

HI...

OKAY, LET'S DO THAT, THEN.

BEEP

SOUNDS GOOD.

FOR STARTERS, HOW ABOUT WE STUDY FOR AN HOUR, THEN TAKE A BREAK FOR 10 MINUTES?

TIMER~

SILENCE

scritch

scritch

scritch

scritch

...

peek

scritch ...

scritch

TIMER
42.34

scritch

scritch

scritch

HE'S REALLY CONCENTRATING HARD

Hm.

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS ABLE TO FOCUS DURING THAT TIME IN THE LIBRARY TOO

...tick!

I GOT DISTRACTED

...

TIME SURE WENT BY QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT!

streeetch

10 MINUTES BREAK~

Ahh~

IT'S ALREADY BEEN AN HOUR, HUH?

Sigh...

YOUR CONCEPT OF PERSONAL SPACE IS REALLY NARROW...

getting closer...

NO, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT DOING THIS DURING BREAK TIME...

shuffle

shuffle

...too close.

What?

kiss

SHOCK

is not

what I... meant...

ARE YOU NOT OKAY WITH THIS DISTANCE?

That-

kiss

HM?

UMMM...

YEAH?

I wonder

kiss

kiss

being too-

touchy?

Actually, Kawase,

aren't you

TONGUE

Hac...

lick

kiss

I WONDER HE SAYS

AH.

ba-dump

n the beg nn ng

...

I

But,

thought he was a busybody, and hypocrite who would always put on a good face

hated Kawase

School rankings

st Kawase....

d Kurihara ...

He was always a nuisance

He became comfortable to be around.

eventualy,

he wasn't a nu sance anymore

When I was kissed n the c.assroom that t me honestly...

I felt

my heart thump.ng.

and d dn't hate it

THEN DATING

OR SOMETHING

WOULDN'T BE

THAT BAD

After that, I began thinking

that if it's Kawase...

Or something.

...Haa,

KAWASE.

CAN'T BREATHE.

ba-dump

!

I...

(huff)

...?

I'LL GET US MORE DRINKS.

get up

KUH?

OH NO! THE BREAK'S OVER SOON.

Break Timer

ACK!

Ah...

15 : 39

TIMER
03:42

SNOOZE

...Huh!?

CLOSE

...

daze

What-

what's with him!?

HE SWITCHES MOODS WAY TOO QUICKLY

AND ACTUALLY

HAS HE ALWAYS BEEN THAT DETACHED ?

thump

JUST ME...

IT PISSES ME OFF THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FEELING RESTLESS

Stop-

UWAAAH! MIKU AND MIKI WANNA STUDY TOGETHER WITH YOUUUU!

AAAHH!

...

KAWASE.

AH!

You opened the door!

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

creak

UWAAAH!!

NOT FAAAIR!

DRA

LET'S DECIDE ON A GOOD DAY,

BECAUSE WE CAN'T CONCENTRATE LIKE THIS...

Huh?

Y-... YOUR PLACE...?

Uh.

Is Kiku-chan staying over?

TUG

Sigh

LET'S STOP STUDYING FOR TODAY...

NEXT TIME, COME TO MY PLACE...

Even though I lent you mine..

HUH? CAN'T I BORROW ONE OF YOURS?

What about us?

AND BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES TO SLEEP IN WHEN YOU COME OVER.

Sleep-over

AH...

I... SEE.

I don't think the sleeves would fit?

I'D LEND YOU MINE, BUT I FEEL LIKE IT'S GONNA BE TOO TIGHT FOR YOU.

...?

Kiku-chan, teach me

You're studying Japanese, right?

WHY'S HE EDUCATIONAL?

...

.KAWASE, AREN'T YOU GONNA SIT DOWN?

Ah, yeah.

I'll sit down.

..AH.

"Next t me, ome to my place "

...

You see, this part~

silence

...

I WONDER IF THAT MEANS HE'S THINKING ABOUT DOING IT

HIS REACTION THAT TIME

turn

I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT

HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WANTS TO GO ANY FURTHER

EVEN THOUGH HE WILL KISS ME WITHOUT HESITATION

...

IF I TOOK THE LEAD OR SOMETHING

I WONDER IF IT'S BETTER

Zzz

HE'S GOT A STRANGELY COWARDLY PART

Zz

tap

tap

00:24

aramaa.co.jp

Purchase Completed

Delivery time is

IF THAT TIME COMES

ROLL

NOW SLEEP, SLEEP!

Zz

Zzz

FWIP

...

IF HE'D JUST BE FRANK AND SAY WHETHER OR NOT HE WANTS TO DO IT

THINGS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER

BETTER HAVE THIS AT HAND,

OR IT'LL BE BAD

EXCUSE MY INTRUSION.

I'LL GET THE SLIPPERS.

THANK YOU.

A few days later.

look around

WOW...

HUH? OH,

IT'S NOT THAT

...IS SOMETHING STRANGE?

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE BEFORE.

SO I'M A BIT NERVOUS.

WILL DO!

...JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

I wonder if I can.. Hahaha.

Your place is really beautiful~

...THERE'S NOTHING REALLY INTERESTING HERE.

DON'T SAY THAT...

So stop looking around

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, LIKE A TEXTBOOK OR SOMETHING, I'LL LEND IT TO YOU.

OKAY, SAME DRILL AS LAST TIME, ONE HOUR STUDY THEN A BREAK.

YEAH.

GOT IT, THANKS.

scratch

...

scritch

scritch

scritch

STOP

...?

...

Hmm~

fidget

fidget

Hmmm...

fidget

fidget

YEAH... KINDA.

Huh?

OH,

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?

DON'T MIND ME AND JUST GO AHEAD WITH YOUR HOMEWORK. PLEASE.

??

CONCENTRATE~

BUT WELL, IT'S JUST-

IT'S OKAY, NO BIGGIE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT T.

scritch scritch scritch scritch

Back to work

...

Some how,

Break time

There's a lot

What?

Mom prepared it in advance

Kurihara, weren't you bad at cooking?

KURIHARA,

THANKS FOR LETTING ME USE THE SHOWER.

click

he's unusually...

Wh-... What..?

AREN'T YOU KEEPING A DISTANCE TODAY?

BLUNT

-Uh!?

UMM... ISN'T IT JUST YOUR IMAGINATION?

MEAN' ╰ ╰

BE-

ARE YOU THINKING OF SOMETHING USELESS AGAIN?

Rea-...

Really? ╰ ╰

HAVEN'T

DONE ANYTHING TODAY.

YOU

. .-CAUSE, IT'S STRANGE.

shock

-TANCE!

GRIT

So I just kept a bit of a dis-...

It's just... I won't be able to stop myself...

~ugh...

whisper

whisper

Ah.

Uh...

silence

Umm...

YOU DON'T EVEN BLINK AN EYE KISSING ME, BUT SINCE THAT'S ALL YOU EVER DO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO DO IT OR NOT!!

WHAT THE HELL!?

IT'S THAT HABIT OF YOURS TO PLAY THE GOOD GUY!

P-... PLAY THE GOOD GUY!?

I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE STOPPING YOURSELF!

RO AR

CATCH

WHOA?

TURN

?

rummage

rummage

WHAT.

!!

IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING IT THEN,

NEVER

-mind!?

TIGHT HUG

brought... stuff with me...

I also...

...

...I...

wanna do it...

that's why...

I'M A GUY TOO... SO I DO GET IN THAT MOOD...

fidget

fidget

IT WAS JUST IN CASE, OR SOMETHING.

NO, WEL....

...WHAT THE,

SO YOU DID WANT TO DO IT ALL ALONG, THEN...

Ahhh!

WE'RE DOING IT!!

ARE WE DOING IT OR NOT!? MAKE UP YOUR MIND?!!

AND I WAS WONDERING IF IT REALLY WAS OKAY.

FRET

AND I WAS WORRIED YOU'D BREAK,

BUT YOU SEE, YOU'RE SO FRAGILE,

FRET

...

angry

FRET

...KURI-
HARA.

(huff

ARE
YOU REALLY
OKAY...?

..I'M
OKAY.

huff

slick

GRAB

Whoa.

YOU'RE THE
TYPE TO PUSH
YOURSELF TOO
HARD, KURIHARA,
SO...

I'LL
SMACK
YOU.

slick

Whoa.

creak

UH...

...

BUT-

IT'S ENOUGH.

GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD ALREADY.

I'M FINE, REALLY.

Haa

IT'S FINE.

...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH PREPARATION..

HA...

NGH...

jolt

slip

slip

grab

WHOA!

Jerk

thump

YOU! DON'T SUDDENLY..

smile

THAT I MET YOU, KURIHARA.

S-..

stroke

SOME-HOW..

I'M FEELING GRATEFUL

squeeze

...OR SOMETHING!?

IT'S KINDA REALLY EM-BARRASS-ING!?

HAHA...

reach

panic

KURIHARA?

DON'T JUST STAY STILL.

tug

WHOA!

...

START MOVING ALREADY.

..HAHA.

How annoy ng

AT YOUR COMMAND.

Don't get embarrassed by your own words.

Don't joke with me,

It's a hundred times more embarrassing for me

CREAK

soon enough, you

Ha...

CREAK

WILL BE BLUSHING DOWN TO YOUR NECK TOO

..WHAT

KURIHARA-SAN...?

SAY...

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, THEN.

.. IT'S JUST, I CAN'T MOVE LIKE THIS.

idle~

...ARE YOU DOING?

Got changed

BULLYING YOU.

sluggish~

Mean!

What?

IS STICKING TOGETHER NOT TO YOUR LIKING?

WHILE YOU'RE DLING YOUR TIME AWAY, I'LL BE WORKING ON SURPASS NG YOU IN THE TEST.

HOW CAN HE GET F RST PLACE WHEN HE S LIKE THAT

Ob

FIRM-

NOT AT ALL!

LY

serious face

NEXT TIME TOO,

I'LL WORK HARD SO I WON'T LOSE TO YOU.

WELL,

Whoa!

THUMP

THIS HIGH AND MIGHTY ATTITUDE OF YOURS PISSES ME OFF!

.. HAHA.

Ahh!

Huh!?

Kurihara, isn't your character somewhat different!?

What, what!?

YOUR BOISTERNESS RUBBED OFF ON ME!

Ahhh!

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YET!

I DEFINITELY WON!

THAT WAS THEN!

DID YOU FORGET THAT I CLOSED THE GAP BETWEEN OUR GRADES LAST TIME?

OH!

BICKER

BICKER

WELL, I FEEL THE SAME!

I SAID THAT THIS TIME, I FEEL CERTAIN!

DASH

LATER!

SHOCK

Yonoo~

Hey guys, the test's rankings-...

that my personality is annoying.

I know

YAP

YAP

Ugh...

Always beating around the bush,

never honest with myself

THE LOSER OBEYS ONE ORDER FROM THE WINNER. HOW ABOUT IT?

But that's probably why...

GRIN

IF YOU'RE THAT SURE, SHALL WE BET ON IT?

BETTER START PRAYING WITH TEARFUL EYES.

WE'LL LOOK ON THE COUNT OF THREE.

I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD ORDER~

Hey!

smirk

..YOU'RE ON.

...THREE!

TURN

...it's going well with him.

Winter Break Back To School
Test Results Rankings

1st ...

Mihanada Pectolite /END

scritch
scritch
scritch

KuRI-
HARA

flip

DOESN'T HE
FEEL LIKE HIS
BANGS GET IN
THE WAY?

AH!

scritch
scritch
scritch

ANNOYED

Buwa-
haha!

scritch
scritch

scritch
scritch

...

flip

...

flip

DON'T LAUGH.

NOW, NOW,

I'LL LEND YOU SOMETHING GOOD~

giggle

giggle

What in the world are you doing, Kurihara?

Tada!

LET'S PUT IT HERE.

IS IT OKAY?

rattle

THERE'S NO MIRROR, SO

TURN YOUR FACE THIS WAY FOR A BIT.

YUP, THERE YOU GO.

LOOK, IT'S ALL-...

gulp

done...

Ah.

SILENCE~

rustle...

...

Ha...

BYE...

Goodbye~...

Umm...

GOODBYE~

?

That was one of the study sessions.

All remaining students, please prepare to leave the school.

RATTLE

SHOCK

shock

Commision work /END

ENTWINED TREES SCANS

MIHANADA PECTOLITE

Nayuta Nago

Ch. 5 + extra

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